FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT: PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AGREES ON UNITY PLAN

NC2321152 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 23 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening brother Abu 'Ammar, Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the revolution forces met with the members of the eighth general conference of the General Federation of Palestinian Students. The meeting was attended by guest members of student delegations taking part in the conference.

Brother Abu 'Ammar spoke about the present political situation following the Camp David agreements. He said: Our people [words indistinct] imperialism which bet that [words indistinct] the Palestinians would bless these agreements. But the time bomb, which expresses our people's will for steadfastness, frustrated this (?hope). At the first steadfastness and confrontation conference, I said that our bomb is our people--this people who is defying the enemies, whether they speak Arabic or Hebrew. This people is defying them and is standing firm and strong in its defiance.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: This people is an indivisible part of this great Arab nation. This Arab nation is great despite the attempts to divide it. No one can speak on behalf of this nation. Only those who now languish in the prisons inside the occupied territory can speak on its behalf.

Referring to the battles in the south, brother Abu 'Ammar said: There is [word indistinct] war in southern Lebanon. They carried out several raids in an attempt to answer us. Our decision was to respond. If they shell Ar-Rayhan, An-Nabatiyah and Hasbayya, they must also understand that no one can impose his will on the Palestinian revolution. All types of weapons were used when a decision was made to [word indistinct] the PLO with U. S. approval. What does this mean? It means that they are betting on imposing their will on our people. Despite all these weapons, they were unable to achieve one military victory over the Palestinian fighter and the (?Lebanese) national fighter, who stood fast and fought against Israeli forces armed with modern U. S. weapons.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The battle is continuing. When the first conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front was held, some asked what this conference could do. The first conference produced the Tripoli document which was confirmed in Algiers and adopted in Damascus. An imbalance has occurred in the area since the temporary withdrawal of the Egyptian Army. I say temporary, because the Egyptian Army is the army of the Egyptian people, who were with us in Algiers, Damascus and Tripoli. This upset in the military balance between the Zionist enemy and us must be corrected by our Arab strength; with all our military, human and economic capabilities; and with genuine alliances with our genuine friends in the socialist camp.

I am glad to say that we in the Palestinian revolution have agreed on a political plan for national unity, which will be announced at the meetings of the next Palestine National Council in Damascus.

Speaking about the aims of the recent Israeli aggression against the south, brother Abu 'Ammar said: They want to open the borders to enlarge the isolationist canton there. Behind this maneuver to postpone the signing of the Blair House agreements, there is a design to divide and tame this area. It is no coincidence that the shelling took place after France decided to withdraw its elements from UNIFIL and Iran decided to do the same.

Speaking about the Syrian-Iraqi reunion and the National Action Charter, brother Abu 'Ammar emphasized the importance of this reunion in overcoming the setback caused by the As-Sadat-Begin-Carter plot. He said that the Syrian-Iraqi reunion has changed the strategic (?course) of the Arab-Zionist conflict. [passage indistinct]

Brother Abu 'Ammar praised the tenacity of the Palestinian national unity and the solidarity in struggle with the Lebanese National Movement.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO CHRISTIANS ON CHRISTMAS

JN242020Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1550 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text of message addressed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Christian world on the occasion of Christmas]

[Text] It gives me pleasure on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year to send in my name and in the name of our people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora my heartfelt congratulations to our Christian brother Palestinian men and women, to our Arab nation and to the friendly Christian world. I would like in particular to send my greetings to the esteemed fathers of all Christian communities.

As we say goodby to the year 1978 another year passes while our Christian and Muslim Jerusalem is oppressed under the heavy tanks of the racist Zionist occupation. This occupation is a fascist one which does not give any respect to the shrines of man. The occupation has violated Islamic shrines and assaulted them one after the other. Thus, the Zionists have added to their aggression against human rights and to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people a new form of aggression against the human conscience. All these facts have been reaffirmed and cannot bear any argument.

The United Nations has repeatedly condemned the Israeli violations of the Christian and Muslim sacred places. These violations include the razing, digging and defacing of the shrines. Regarding the political status of Jerusalem, the international community has condemned Israeli policy and considers the Israeli racist decision to annex it and make it the capital of the fascist Zionist occupying state a violation of human rights and the right of self-determination. This decision carries the connotations of the ugliest form of racial discrimination and religious bigotry.

Many great spiritual leaders have expressed their absolute rejection of the forced emigration of Christian and Muslim Arabs from Jerusalem and from the various Palestinian towns. The Zionist plot against the holy places is aimed at transforming these holy places into a kind of museum. These holy places are the source of the ever renewed spiritual life which brings peace, brotherhood and love to believers and the whole world.

Brothers, Jerusalem knew the highest form of religious amity under Palestinian Arab rule. Jerusalem was preserved, as we preserve our sight and hearts, to remain a place of pilgrimage for Muslims, Christians and Jews from all corners of the world. This led to the preservation and maintenance of its holy places. For this reason the hearts of believers all over the world are pained and angered to find that the genuine face of Jerusalem has been defaced and that its holy places have been assaulted. They are pained to witness the violation of the churches and the mosques of Jerusalem and the racist discrimination against the Arab Muslims and Christians.

Hence we can see another face, namely, the face of the just struggle of the Palestinian revolution. We are trying to preserve the holy places and protect Jerusalem and restore it to the era of brotherhood, peace and light among the sons of the various religions and communities. We want to restore Jerusalem to the era of amity and equality and the freedom of worship; namely, to the Palestinian era.

Brothers, the Camp David agreements and their results are a direct threat to the rights of the Palestinian Arabs in Jerusalem. The Camp David agreements have dropped this issue from their paragraphs. The Camp David agreements have released the Israeli hand to indulge in its policy of annexation, expansion and Judaization of Jerusalem. Begin, the archenemy of all that connects man with his spiritual heritage, moral values and human principles, revealed his hostility to the shrines when he announced, as he always does, that Jerusalem, the city of all of us, will remain the eternal capital of Israel.

This affirms the correct stand of the PLO in its decisive answer to the Camp David agreements and their result. This proves the fears, expressed by many spiritual leaders, scientists and thinkers of the dangers threatening Jerusalem and its holy places. This makes it incumbent on all believers to shoulder their historic responsibilities, the responsibility of their consciences and to have a spiritual shakeup. We ask them on the Arab and international levels to stand by the Palestinian people and their just cause and to back the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, and to support its just struggle to foil the plots against Jerusalem, to protect the holy city and preserve its shrines.

On Christmas and the New Year, I wish you a new year of joint struggle against the racist and fascist occupation which took it upon itself to set fire to the holy shrines of man on the land of peace. I am sure that you will stand by your Jerusalem and your holy places and by the side of the just cause of our Palestinian Arab people.

We send you a just Palestinian peace. May happiness dwell in your hearts that believe in your Jerusalem. Revolution until victory.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS

JN241750Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has concluded its meetings which began yesterday under Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution. Brother Khalid al-Fahum and brothers Abu Mazin and Abu as-Sa'id, members of the Fatah Central Committee, attended part of the meetings.

After the meeting brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar told the Palestinian news agency: The PLO Executive Committee studied the latest developments relating to the Palestinian issue on both the Arab and international levels. The committee also discussed the Lebanese situation and a number of reports concerning the occupied homeland and made decisions on these reports. The committee discussed the results of its delegation's visit to Amman and decided to resume the discussion of this issue at a later meeting. The PLO Executive Committee emphasized the need to complete the various reports of the various departments in the PLO within a week so as to pave the way for the Palestine National Council meeting in Damascus on 15 January 1979. The committee also decided to form a delegation from the Executive Committee to visit Baghdad.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENT ON TALKS IN JORDAN

JN241527Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the Palestinian delegation in the talks with Jordan, stated upon arrival in Damascus yesterday that agreement was reached with Jordanian officials on signing a Palestinian-Jordanian document of action which will define the framework of cooperation between the PLO and Jordan. He said that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee has been formed with the aim of backing the stand of our masses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN230635Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 23 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, last night received Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov. The ambassador conveyed to brother Abu 'Ammar an important message from the Soviet leadership. It was learned that the message deals with the current situation in the area.

'ARAFAT MEETS ALGERIAN, TUNISIAN AMBASSADORS IN DAMASCUS

JN241843Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, received in his office in Damascus this afternoon the Algerian ambassador in Damascus. The meeting dealt with various Palestinian and Arab issues. Brother Abu 'Ammar inquired about the state of health of President Boumediene and wished him quick recovery and the Algerian people progress under his revolutionary leadership. The ambassador reiterated the Algerian people's and government's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The meeting was attended by brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddum], head of the PLO Political Department.

Brother Abu 'Ammar received in his office in Damascus this afternoon the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. They discussed various Palestinian issues. The ambassador reiterated the stand of the Tunisian Government on the side of the PLO. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Mazin, member of Fatah Central Committee.

BAHRAIN

KUWAIT, BAHRAIN TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD ECONOMIC UNITY

JN250917Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 25 December--Bahraini Finance Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim has announced that steps have been taken to achieve gradual economic unity between Kuwait and Bahrain.

The minister said in a statement published in the newspaper AL-QABAS here today that effective 1 March 1979, customs tariffs on goods produced in the two countries will be abolished and that a permanent joint department will be established for the importation of foodstuffs. The minister also said that steps will be taken to establish a single gulf airline. The minister pointed out that a followup committee composed of the foreign ministers of Bahrain and Kuwait will meet next month and that permanent liaison officers will be appointed to follow up on the implementation programs.

MUSCAT

PRC DIPLOMATIC MISSION ARRIVES TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY

JN251924Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 25 December--A diplomatic mission from the PRC has arrived here to take the necessary measures to set up the Chinese Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman and furnish it.

The two countries decided to exchange diplomatic representation on the ambassadorial level following the recognition of the PRC by the Sultanate of Oman on 26 May. Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi paid an official visit to Peking on 29 June.

QATAR

AMIR APPOINTS TWO NEW MINISTERS 24 DECEMBER

NC241155Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1107 GMT 24 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 24 December--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, today issued an amirate decree appointing Shaykh Muhammad ibn Hamad Al Thani minister of education. He succeeds Shaykh Jasim ibn Hamad Al Thani, who died in 1976.

The decree also appoints Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani as minister of state for foreign affairs, a new post in the State of Qatar. It is recalled that Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani was recently transferred to the Foreign Ministry from London where he served as Qatar's ambassador.

Four New Under Secretaries

NC241156Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 24 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 24 December--His Royal Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, today issued an amirate decree appointing four under secretaries for the first time in the State of Qatar.

SAUDIA ARABIA

AR-RIYADH RULES OUT GENEVA CONFERENCE

LD251522y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 25 December--A Saudi paper has expressed opposition to the call for reconvening the Geneva conference, describing it as a risk that will not lead to any success. The paper, AR-RIYADH, expressed the belief that if convened, the conference would only complicate matters because conditions have changed and are no longer as they were.

Despite its diplomatic gains and military losses, the paper says, the Palestine question is still the most important problem. The solutions and quasisolutions prepared for it had been half-paralyzed and the crisis has thus become more complicated because of them, so much so that the Middle East now verges on the brink of a new war, which would only be the powderkeg for a larger war covering more than just one area in the world.

Reviewing developments of the past 2 years, the paper says: "At the beginning of the current year, President Jimmy Carter thought he was equipped to find a solution. The overoptimists went so far as to say that the Palestine brew was almost ready and that the solution was in the hands of Washington. Then, suddenly, Carter drew back and confined himself to expressing good intentions at Camp David yesterday, at Brussels today, and he will probably do so at Geneva tomorrow.

The four under secretaries are all Qatar citizens. They are 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abdallah ibn Turki, who has been appointed under secretary in the Education Ministry and who previously served as assistant director of the ministry; Eng Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman al'Mani', who has been appointed under secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry and who served previously as director of the minister's office; and Ahmad 'Ali Ma'rafiyah, who has been appointed under secretary in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and who served previously as ambassador at the Foreign Ministry after having transferred from his post as Qatar's ambassador to Baghdad. Finally, Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khalifi has been appointed under secretary in the Ministry of Information. He served previously as Qatar's ambassador to the UAE.

MAURITANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD231838Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery and minister of control and planning [as received] of Mauritania, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon within the framework of his tour of the states of the region. SNA has learned that he brought a message for King Khalid from Mauritanian head of state Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck.

SOMALI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD251524Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda, 25 December--Somali Defense Minister Lt Gen Mohamed Ali Samantar arrived in Jidda this evening on a few days' visit. He said his visit was aimed at bolstering fraternal relations between the kingdom and Somalia. He added that the visit was at the invitation of Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL RETURNS TO CAIRO FROM BRUSSELS

NC2420422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil returned to Cairo tonight after holding talks in Brussels with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz returned on the same plane as the prime minister.

In a statement to MENA, Prime Minister Khalil said that tomorrow he will give President Anwar as-Sadat a detailed report on the results of his talks in Brussels, which he prepared on the plane en route to Cairo. He also said that he would submit these results to a meeting of the National Democratic Party parliamentary body and to the cabinet on Wednesday.

Asked about the results achieved by this round of talks, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I cannot be so hasty as to say that the visit has achieved results yet. My visit to Brussels was at the invitation of Mr Cyrus Vance and its objective was to attempt to understand the views of the two parties on the points which have been raised and on which there is disagreement.

He added that each side submitted its views and its reasons for adopting such views. It was agreed that each side will submit the views of the two sides to its head of state and decision makers. In light of this, decision can be made about the measures which can be taken in the future to overcome the current difficulties in the peace talks.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said: It is premature to say that the talks have achieved results or that they have succeeded or failed, because this depends on the assessment of the competent authorities in each state and on the decision they will make. He added: The basis of negotiations is to locate the points of differences and to learn the views in order to find a formula that will reconcile the views without undermining the basic principles on which the talks are founded. Asked whether the talks will be resumed in Washington, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I don't know if the negotiators will return to Washington again or not. What I can say is that if there are sincere intentions and if we want to conclude a comprehensive peace agreement and not a separate agreement, there is hope that the talks will resume--not immediately, but after an exchange of views.

Asked about the level at which the exchange of views will take place, the prime minister said it is up to President Anwar as-Sadat to decide.

In answer to a question by a foreign journalist, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that there was no agenda for the Brussels talks, which were held in response to an invitation from Mr Cyrus Vance in an attempt to relaunch the Egyptian-Israeli negotiating process.

Asked what was achieved at these talks, Dr Khalil said that he would announce this in time. Asked whether it was agreed to hold another tripartite summit conference, he said he would report to President Anwar as-Sadat on the contents of the talks and after this the president would decide at what levels the talks will be held.

Asked if the current talks had reached a stage of deadlock, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the talks had not reached this stage.

Dr Mustafa Khalil answered a question about the attitude of each side toward the question of concessions. He said: We cannot describe them as concessions, but they are an understanding for trying to arrive at an agreement.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that there are points of difference, and we are trying to bring these points closer. The principle of "take it or leave it" cannot possibly exist.

Asked if there had been flexibility in the current Egyptian attitude, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that there were various points of difference and that we were trying to arrive at an agreement about them. The flexibility may be in the interpretation or the measures, but there is no flexibility in the principle.

Dr Mustafa Khalil was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, the ministers of interior, tourism, minister of state for foreign affairs, minister for people's assembly affairs, and minister of state for national party affairs.

He was also welcomed by U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Mr Hermann Eilts and the Belgian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

MINISTER GHALI DISCUSSES EGYPT'S STAND IN NEGOTIATIONS

JN2520115Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 25 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt has emphasized throughout the phased negotiations two important principles: the need to link the peace treaty with a comprehensive solution of the Middle East dispute, and Egypt's Arab commitments' having precedence over other commitments.

Dr Ghali, who was speaking to the conference of Egyptians studying abroad this morning, said the instructions of President Anwar as-Sadat to the Egyptian negotiators since the beginning of the peace negotiations until now were to reject any separate settlement and to uphold the principle of achieving a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab areas occupied in 1967 as well as the regaining by the Palestinians of their legitimate rights.

The minister of state for foreign affairs noted in this respect that 70 percent of the Camp David talks and 60 percent of the Washington talks were devoted to the discussion of Palestinian rights.

Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian side is prepared to accept all security measures provided that this does not harm the land or sovereignty. He also said that Egypt is ready to establish normal relations with Israel without granting any concessions to Israel or harming Egypt's Arab commitments which Dr Ghali said "cannot be bargained over."

Dr Butrus Ghali said that the Egyptian position in the peace negotiations is based on three important bases: The rejection of a separate settlement, upholding UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the fact that the two Camp David agreements represent a framework for peace after which there should be a movement toward detailed agreement on the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel while not harming Arab sovereignty or the Arab lands in Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza.

Speaking about the draft Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs explained that the basis of the treaty is the Arab interpretation of Resolution 242, and it is a tangible and practical interpretation of this resolution. Dr Ghali explained that during the Washington talks, three Egyptian, Israeli and American plans were submitted. The U.S. plan was accepted after introducing amendments to it and on the basis that it is a draft on which we have reservations.

Dr Ghali said that the preamble of the treaty refers to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that the draft treaty is an interpretation of the two Camp David agreements which in turn are an interpretation of Resolution 242 upon which all the Arab states agreed.

Dr Ghali said that the preamble also provides for regarding the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel as a step for achieving other steps between the Arab states and Israel and that it is a basis for concluding other agreements.

Dr Ghali said that there are three addenda to the peace treaty. They are the military addendum which was not drafted yet, an addendum on the maps which explain the various phases of withdrawal, and an addendum on the normalization of relations.

In his statement to Egyptians studying abroad, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Article I of the draft peace treaty provides for withdrawal from all Egyptian territory to the June 1967 borders and that the next article affirms the adherence to the international boundaries.

He said that the Article III of the draft treaty deals with the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel while giving Israel no preferential relations, and that the normalization of relations will begin after Israel withdraws from about two-thirds of Sinai.

Dr Ghali dealt with the current status of the peace negotiations, noting that the agreement on the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and the agreement on the West Bank and Gaza were supposed to be signed but that the Israeli side is only willing to approve the first agreement. The minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egyptian diplomacy has succeeded in arriving at a joint Egyptian-U.S. position on the necessity of signing the complementary agreement on the same day the peace treaty is signed.

Dr Ghali added that the complementary agreement is an international treaty to which the parties concerned will be committed. He also noted that the preamble of the treaty includes an invitation to all other Arab states to begin negotiations with Israel in order to benefit from the Egyptian-Israel peace treaty, which is a legal precedent to following treaties.

AL-AHRAM: CONTACTS WITH VANCE TO RESUME AFTER HOLIDAYS

NC250812Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 25 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 December--AL-AHRAM today says that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil's report to President Anwar as-Sadat will cover the details of the meeting held between Dr Khalil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, as well as the tripartite meeting which ended at 1300 yesterday.

The paper says that Prime Minister Khalil's report is very important, for the following reasons:

1. It contains the Israeli viewpoint after the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations following Egypt's request for a clear explanation of the basic points in the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty, especially in relation to the implementation of the treaty, the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza and Egypt's Arab commitments.

2. An accurate and perfectly clear definition of the extent of the present problems was made by the three parties that attended the Brussels discussions: Egypt, Israel and the United States. During his meeting with Moshe Dayan, Dr Mustafa Khalil expressed Egypt's views concerning the aims of peace throughout the Middle East and the importance of the participation of all parties to insure a comprehensive and lasting peace in the area.

3. The report includes suggestions from Dr Mustafa Khalil to President as-Sadat on the basis of which the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations may be resumed, so that the president may issue directives regarding Egypt's future steps.

AL-AHRAN adds that Egypt and Israel are expected to resume their contacts with Cyrus Vance regarding the next steps after the Christmas and New Year holidays. These contacts, the paper says, are expected to begin in the first week of January.

AS-SADAT ISSUES MESSAGE ON PORT SAID DAY

NC231112Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 23 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Port Said, 23 December--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has said that this year the national feast of the brave township of Port Said comes at a delicate and decisive phase of the Arab-Egyptian struggle because the efforts for a just peace have stumbled before dreams of expansion and attempts to depart from the framework for peace which was achieved at Camp David.

The president said that the recent history of struggle of the Port Said people affirms to the entire world that our people, who sincerely want peace, are the same people who have waged battle after battle with courage and sacrifice.

The president affirmed that the entire world is well aware that we will not accept any alternative to a just peace because our people are not seeking peace in order to avoid sacrifices or because they are tired of struggling. Our people are seeking a peace that will crown the battles of victory and achieve the goals of the struggle.

The above was contained in the president's message to the people of Port Said on the 22d national day of the brave town. The message was read on behalf of his excellency by Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il at a ceremony in Port Said this morning.

In his message President as-Sadat emphasized that Egypt has waged continuous battles in order to defend and support our Arab nation. He said Egypt, in pursuing its political struggle for a just peace, is firmly resolved to achieve a comprehensive peace and has always insisted on the link between its interests, the interests of our Arab nation and the rights of the Palestinian people. Egypt did not want and would not have been content with regaining its territories and rights only. Had this been the case, Egypt would have abandoned the goals of its struggle and the sacrifices of its martyrs.

The president said that although in recent weeks the peace efforts have been impeded by those who advocate peace without appreciating its responsibilities, we still have full confidence in God that a just peace will be achieved in this part of the world sooner or later because peace is desired by man everywhere and man will not accept a retreat from the progress he has achieved. The world since the Jerusalem initiative is not the same as before.

Referring to the various stages of the struggle of the Port Said people, President as-Sadat said Port Said has been the vanguard of Egypt in its struggle and sacrifices throughout the periods of steadfastness and the liberation battles. Egypt has been loyal to Port Said. It devoted all its resources and abilities to the reconstruction of this city and the development of its economy. His excellency added: Port Said, the free city, is one of the landmarks of the significant transformation resulting from the policy of economic openness. It looks on the world across the Suez Canal to give us a bright picture of the creative Egyptian effort for the sake of building prosperity and progress.

In his message, President as-Sadat affirmed that the masses of Port Said, who set an example in sacrifices and liberation, can, with the help of God, shoulder their great responsibilities toward the comprehensive development in the era of transformation from peace to prosperity.

Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il arrived at Al-Jamail Airport in Port Said this morning to participate in the celebrations held by the inhabitants of the city on the anniversary of its national day. The interior minister was accompanied by the tourism and civil aviation minister, Dr Mahmud 'Abd al-Hafiz; the education, culture and scientific research minister, Dr Hasan Muhammad Isma'il; the transport, communications and maritime transport minister, Engineer 'Ali Fahmi ad-Daghistani, and the Awqaf minister and minister of state for Al-Azhar affairs, Dr Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman Bisar. They were welcomed on arrival by Port Sa'id Governor Sayyid Sarhan, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, Commander of the Military Sector in Port Said Maj Gen 'Ali 'Arri and political and popular leaders in the governorate.

At the beginning of the celebrations, the interior minister reopened Al-Jamail Airport, which had stopped functioning in the wake of the 1967 aggression when its runways were bombed by the Israeli aircraft. The airport has been repaired and its runways and control tower have been modified to receive civilian aircraft.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FROM EUROPEAN VISIT

JN221821Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur and the delegation accompanying them returned to Amman this evening from London at the conclusion of his majesty's 12-day visit to a number of European states. The tour included France, Italy, the Vatican and Britain and was aimed at explaining the Jordanian position and the Arab viewpoint on the current developments in the Middle East. His majesty presented Jordan's views regarding the realistic, just and comprehensive peace desired by the people in the region.

Chief of Court on Visit

JN232145Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Dec 78 JN

[Interview granted by Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, to unidentified Jordan television correspondent in Europe at conclusion of King Husayn's visit to Europe; date and place not given--videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency, King Husayn's trip is over. Could you please sum up the results of this trip?

[Answer] The main aim of his majesty's trip was to present again the Arab stands and rights clearly in the confused atmosphere which has recently prevailed in the region, especially in those circles which are considered friendly to Jordan. We do not want the attitudes of these states to be unclear. Within this context, King Husayn's endeavors were aimed at again presenting our stand and at putting the Arab cause in its proper perspective. This was done by stressing the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace and outlining the rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to determine their destiny in complete freedom. His majesty also reaffirmed that the Arab stand which crystallized at the Baghdad conference represents the Arab views on Arab rights and on a just peace. This stand was presented in a positive spirit. This trip by the king, which included France, Italy, the Vatican and Britain, was aimed at contacting the leaders of these states and his holiness the pope to make clear this new stand and to present it in a positive and correct manner commensurate with the Arabs' real position.

[Question] European political and information circles paused to think about the new presentation of the problem by King Husayn when he callled for returning the issue to an international framework. This means calling on or urging the Security Council to take up the issue again. Can you explain this?

[Answer] There are two parts to this issue: the first is related to the principle and the other to the method or the procedure. Concerning the principle, King Husayn stressed during his trip that the solution must be comprehensive, taking into consideration all the Arab fronts and tackling the crux of the issue, namely, the Palestinian problem and Palestinian rights. From the procedural viewpoint, King Husayn suggested the idea of returning to the international framework and to the Security Council which will redefine Resolution 242 and the means to implement it.

This idea was put forward by King Husayn and by Jordan with the aim of opening the doors to a comprehensive peace which would gather the Arab sides under the one umbrella. This would break any deadlock. This idea suggested by King Husayn met with understanding and received a response in all the capitals he visited. In any case it is a subject under consideration and will be an issue to be discussed by King Husayn and the Arab leaders who are directly connected with this issue.

The main thing is for the Arab stand to be positive and to be presented to the whole world in a reasonable manner. There must be a working program agreed to by all the Arab sides. This program must define exactly the rights which cannot be yielded. This would be very useful on the Arab and international levels.

[Question] One final question: In view of the European response which you pointed out as a result of King Husayn's talks in Europe, do you expect a new European initiative from, say, Paris or London which will raise the issue and put it before the international community?

[Answer] Naturally, Jordan is in continuous contact with all states and organizations in the world. For example, his majesty's contacts with the United States are continuous and there is a permanent dialog with all the European capitals and all the friendly countries, including the Soviet Union and other states. Europe is closely connected with the Arab homeland and the Middle East, and is firmly connected with the history of the Palestinian issue. Europe is connected with the United States and is in continuous interaction with the United States. His majesty, through his contacts first with the FRG and then with France, Britain, Italy and the Vatican, wanted to make Jordan's viewpoints and the other official Arab viewpoints clear. The king wanted to urge the European states to move in the correct manner. Naturally, his majesty is in contact with all the other states, including the United States. The aim is to have a dialog with the whole world and to demand and defend our rights. We do not want to close the doors. Europe bears a great responsibility. The king reminded the European leaders of this on every occasion during the visit.

[Question] Thank you, Your Excellency.

INFORMATION MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO MONTE CARLO RADIO

JN2413112 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said that His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to a number of European countries and the Vatican was the biggest and quickest Arab move resulting from the Bagdhdad conference. The trip enabled his majesty to present and clarify the Jordanian position on the current peace attempts. This position, he said, proceeds from the Baghdad summit.

In a statement to Monte Carlo Radio, Abu 'Awdah said his majesty stresed to officials in the countries he visited that the Camp David agreements cannot lead to the comprehensive solution desired by the whole world, including the EEC countries. King Husayn proposed a substitute to the Camp David agreement--namely, the return to another framework, which could be Geneva or anything similar, with the participation of all the parties concerned in the peace talks, including the USSR.

Asked about Jordan's position on the current status of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiation, Abu 'Awdah said that the two problems facing the negotiations are the linkage between the Sinai agreement and the autonomy agreement, and the problem of giving priority or preference to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty over any other Egyptian commitments.

Abu 'Awdah said that a just and comprehensive peace will not be achieved even with the solving of the linkage problem, because if the linkage is agreed on, the problem will remain because it is linked with the nature or idea of the autonomy plan which does not solve the Palestine question in accordance with the UN resolutions and the right of the Palestinians to determine their own destiny on their land and to establish their Palestinian state. Furthermore, this idea of the autonomy plan does not include the main provision of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which is general Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The plan also does not tackle the subject of the settlements and the fait accompli policy which Israel is enforcing in the occupied territory.

Abu 'Awdah added that it is difficult to say that the proposed Egyptian-Israeli treaty will be signed. He expressed the hope that the treaty would not be signed, thereby thwarting Israel's objective of signing a separate agreement with Egypt, which is an influential Arab country. Abu 'Awdah said that if the treaty is not signed, there would be new hope in the area that the parties concerned would return to the framework of joint action for the sake of peace.

Replying to a question on the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog, Abu 'Awdah said that the Baghdad conference has shortened the way toward the holding of this dialog to reach a general framework on a clear basis. The conference has come out with definite resolutions on certain matters expressing the Arab nation's resolve to tackle the developments which occurred in the region, especially the Camp David results and their potential danger to the Arab nation.

Abu 'Awdah said that a general framework was reached during the recent Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. This framework covers three fields: political, information, and backing the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory who are directly exposed to Israel's aggressive plans. Abu 'Awdah expressed the belief that further talks will be held to discuss political and information matters so Jordan and the PLO can proceed on these levels and on the Arab and international levels to achieve the objectives of the Baghdad summit resolutions and to show that the Camp David agreements cannot lead to the just and comprehensive solution to which the Arab states, the big powers, and the United States have committed themselves.

PRIME MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JN252123Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stated that Jordan worked hard and with sincerity during the Baghdad summit conference. This conference, the prime minister added, had effects on the political level and on support for steadfastness and the eastern and northern fronts. This came in a statement made by the prime minister today in the National Consultative Council during the council's discussion of the 1979 draft budget.

The prime minister said that the march of the Arab nation during the Baghdad summit conference was a blessed and successful one and we can only thank the Arab countries which attended the Baghdad summit and which contributed positively toward crystallizing its results. The Baghdad conference, he said, has clearly indicated the way for a just solution and has clearly and firmly affirmed the preservation of the national sovereignty of the Palestinian people, the commitment to the previous resolutions of the Arab summits, the determination to completely liberate the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the adherence and preservation of the national sovereignty over these territories.

Mr Badran said that the conference resolutions also reiterated the Arabs' rejection of the Camp David agreements because of their opposition to the resolutions of the Arab summits, the Arab League Charter and the UN resolutions. Therefore, the Baghdad conference rejected these two agreements and any results which might ensue from them.

On the budget for next year, the prime minister said that the budget is mainly an implementation of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions. Expenditures are for the steadfastness of Jordan and its front. The budget implements the resolutions whether in current spending for the armed forces or the implementation of the article on the armaments fund.

In its morning session the National Consultative Council recommended the implementation of the budget for fiscal year 1979. The budget amounts to 513,429,000 Jordanian dinars. The session was held under Speaker of the Council Ahmad al-Lawzi and in the presence of the prime minister and the ministers.

At the conclusion of the session, Mr al-Lawzi expressed the hope that the government and officials will be successful in implementing this budget, which is a document of work and hope.

TRADE TALKS WITH IRAQ BEGIN IN AMMAN

JN231514Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 25 December--Talks began here today to bolster economic and trade relations and expand the volume of trade exchange between Jordan and Iraq.

The two sides discussed the possibility of increasing the shares of the trade centers in 1979 to a million dinars instead of 1.75 million dinars in view of the prominent role these centers are playing in expanding the volume of trade between the two countries.

Following the meeting, the Iraqi minister announced his government's decision to extend a 15-million-dinar loan to the Arab potash company and another 5-million-dinar loan to the chemical fertilizers company.

The two sides will resume their talks tomorrow. The Iraqi delegation arrived in Amman yesterday on a 3-day visit to Jordan.

GUNBOATS CRUISE OFF LEBANON, PLANES OVERFLY TYRE 22 DEC

NC230700Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 23 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Reports from the south indicate a continuing state of caution and anxiety in the area in the wake of the recent Israeli raids. Correspondents have reported that Israeli gunboats were seen yesterday cruising in the sea off Ra's al-Bayyadah, Tyre and Az-Zahrani without approaching the coast. At times, fire was opened in the direction of the boats which were heading out toward the high seas.

In the Tyre area, where the Israeli gunboats did not leave tne territorial water, fire was opened in the direction of the boats. A state of expectation continued to prevail in the town. The state of anxiety in the town was heightened in the morning when Israeli planes overflew the town. At the same time, the inhabitants of the areas raided by the Israelis have started to repair their homes and the damage caused by the raids.

Gunboats Fired Upon

JN231148Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 Dec--Early this morning units of the joint forces opened fire at three Zionist gunboats which tried to enter Lebanese territorial waters near Sidon. The Zionist gunboats were forced to retreat out to sea.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon said that Zionist patrols are still roving the area all along the Lebanese coast.

'Abduction' of Greek, Cypriot Ships

JN221152Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 Dec--Zionist warboats today abducted two commercial Greek and Cypriot ships. The ships were about to enter the port of Sidon to unload their cargo of foodstuffs when the act of abduction took place.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon has reported that the fate of the two ships is still unknown.

Ships Held 4 Hours

JN221505Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 Dec--Zionist warships today detained two commercial Greek and Cypriot ships for a period of 4 hours.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon has reported that the two ships were subjected to harassment and a minute search by the Zionists during the period they were detained.

VOL REPORTS SYRIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

NC221300Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 22 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A fourth Syrian military vehicle has been blown up on the Damascus road between Al-Fayyadiyah and Al-Midayrij. At 1100 today, a military vehicle was blown up between Al-Fayyadiyah and Al-Jumhur. The explosion injured a number of members of the deterrent forces and blocked the road. Consequently, some deterrent forces members manning roadblocks opened fire, particularly on the road leading to Jisr al-Wati. Traffic was diverted from the area to avoid sniper fire.

The explosion is the fourth of its type involving Syrian military vehicles on the Damascus road. Today's explosion follows three previous ones in Dahr al-Baydar, 'Alayh and Ba'lshmayh. The causes for these explosions have not been determined.

Preliminary reports on today's explosion indicate that three soldiers were killed and others wounded and that a civilian car was destroyed.

Reports from the southern suburbs of the capital say that sporadic fire has cut off the Al-'Adliyah road. Bursts of fire were heard in the suburbs in Ash-Shiyan and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, which caused the citizens to be cautious and alert.

ARAB FORCES ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON 22 DEC INCIDENTS

NC221415Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 78 NC

[22 December communique issued by the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon]

[Text] At 1110 today, 22 December 1978, a charge exploded on the main international road between Al-Fayyadiyah and Al-Yarzah almost in the same spot where a charge exploded on 8 December 1978. As a result of today's explosion, two civilian vehicles and an Arab Deterrent Forces military vehicle sustained slight damage. The vehicles happened to be passing by at the time of the explosion. Two civilians and two soldiers were slightly wounded. They received treatment at the German hospital and Al-Fayyadiyah barracks medical center. A military expert has estimated that the charge contained 15 kilograms of TNT. He also said that the charge was detonated by wire from the direction of the Nahr Beirut valley. After the explosion, two civilians suspected of being in the area of the explosion were detained and are being interrogated by a joint committee of the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Lebanon Military Police detaining the two persons. The judicial authorities have been informed and they have asked the Arab Deterrent Forces to follow up on the matter.

At 1130 the Arab Deterrent Forces roadblock on Al-Wati Bridge, as well as the civilian cars passing on it, came under sniper fire from the direction of Tahwitat Furn ash-Shubbak. As a result the bridge was rendered impassable. Soldiers took up combat positions to return and silence the fire. Normal traffic was then restored.

The Arab Deterrent Forces are determined to deal with the situation as necessary to prevent any attempt to impede the positive trend toward the consolidation of security that the country has experienced in recent weeks. The causes of this sudden and coordinated escalation between Al-Fayydiyah, Sinn al-Fill and Al-Batrun are not known.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS INCIDENTS 23 DEC

NC240651Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 23 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Calm prevailed last night in Beirut and its suburbs during which the usual sound of explosions was not heard. However, the sound of intermittent shooting could be heard until this morning in the southern suburb. No casualties have been reported.

A van carrying pinball machines had opened fire on a Syrian deterrent forces' roadblock near the Central Bank in As-Sanab' quarter. Its driver then headed for Al-Hamra street. This incident was followed by intensive shooting between the roadblock and hidden armed men. This is the second incident in 1 day. Earlier, fire was opened on a deterrent forces roadblock in Al-Janan area killing 'Ali Qasim Shaqrun.

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY SENDING TANKS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN241328Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 Dec--Large numbers of Zionist tanks were seen throughout the day entering the areas of Bint Jubayl and Marj 'Uyun in southern Lebanon. The insignia of the rightwing militia was then inscribed on the tanks.

Reports received from southern Lebanon say that the rightwing militia is escalating its concentrations and military movements in the said areas with overt support from the Zionist enemy.

Zionist enemy aircraft at noon today violated Lebanese airspace at low altitudes above the southern area. The INA correspondent reports that the Zionist aircraft are making intermittent sorties above the southern Lebanese area.

SYRIANS SHELL CHRISTIAN POSITIONS IN BEIRUT 25 DEC

London REUTER in English 0054 GMT 25 Dec 78 WA

[Text] Beirut, Dec 25, REUTER--The crash of exploding artillery shells shook Christian east Beirut early on Christmas Day today and rightwing military sources said Syrian gunners had opened fire on rightist positions.

The violence flared at around 1:00 A.M. local, an hour after a fusillage of small arms and machinegun fire greeted Christmas Day in the usual noisy celebration of the nativity in Christian parts of Lebanon.

VOL REPORTS ISRAELI PLANES OVERFLY SOUTH LEBANON 25 DEC

NC251756Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 25 Dec 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli planes twice overflew southern villages at a medium-level altitude today, once in the morning and another time in the afternoon. The Israeli planes were on reconnaissance missions.

VOL REPORTS SNIPER FIRE IN BEIRUT AREAS 26 DEC

NC260950Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 26 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Intensive sniper fire and RPC rocket fire continue to be heard in Ad-Diwanah area at present. This has made the road in the area unsafe.

There is intensive sniper fire in the southern suburb at present, following a night during which explosions and intermittent firing were heard.

SYRIAN-IRAQI POPULAR, VOCATIONAL DELEGATION LEADERS MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN222028Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The heads of the delegations of the popular and vocational organizations held a joint meeting at the headquarters of the General Federation of Peasants this evening under Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, member of the Ba'th Party regional command, and Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council. They discussed what has been achieved by the joint committees of the popular and vocational organizations during their discussion of the working papers submitted by the two sides within the framework of the objectives drawn up by the Joint Charter for National Action as well as within the framework of the joint pan-Arab and vocational action between the popular and vocational organizations in the two countries.

Al-As'ad and 'Abd al-Jalil stressed the need to expedite the unification of regulations, laws and legislations of the two countries' popular and vocational organizations and federations in the direction of their unity, which is considered the basic brick for building comprehensive unity. They pointed out that action toward unifying these organizations will not stop when the unity of the two countries is announced, and that there is still extensive and new work to be done. They affirmed that we should not be content with reiterating the slogan of unity, but that the main duty and the great responsibility is to fulfil the will of the masses.

Al-Asad Hosts Luncheon

JN241826Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad today gave a luncheon in honor of the delegations which participated in the conference of the popular and vocational organizations in Syria and Iraq. When the president arrived at Ash-Sharq Club where the luncheon was given, he was welcomed by conference Chairmen Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, chairman of the Regional Peasants Bureau; and Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council. He was also welcomed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Walid Mahmud, Iraqi ambassador in Damascus.

Statement Issued

JN231807Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 23 December--The following is the text of the statement issued at the end of the Syrian and Iraqi popular and vocational organizations' 20-23 December meetings in Damascus:

In response to their historic pan-Arab responsibility; proceeding from the principles contained in the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Charter for National Action issued after the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr; in implementation of the charter's principles for the promotion of unifying steps between the two countries on all levels; out of the conviction of the role to be played by the popular and vocational organizations at this stage of our Arab nation's struggle in the face of the fateful challenges by imperialism, Zionism and reaction; and in completion of the results achieved at Baghdad meeting and within the framework of the Pan-Arab and vocational general action programs set up by these organizations on 6 December 1978, a delegation representing all popular organizations and vocational unions in Iraq visited Syria from 20-23 December and held several meetings with the Syrian representatives of the similar organizations and unions.

During the discussions, representatives of the two sides arrived at bilateral programs defining the executive steps for attaining interaction and integration in their fields of work with the aim of implementing and entrenching the unifying course in their popular struggle. These programs include the following general trends:

1. Working to increase the spirit of pan-Arab responsibility among the masses of the popular and vocational organizations, as well as strengthening the firm struggle so as to safeguard the gains of the two countries' march toward unity and progress.

2. Forming joint leadership committees between the popular and vocational organizations in the two countries to follow up the implementation of the contents of the unifying program from the practical point of view, and preparing studies for the unification of the laws and regulations governing the work of these committees. Rapid and intensive action on these studies will begin right from the first month of 1979.

3. Drafting joint central and detailed plans and programs for all popular and vocational activities on the level of all concerned sectors in the two countries.

4. Utilizing the joint experiences of the two countries in forming vocational organizations in one country to match those in the other.

5. Becoming acquainted with the experiences of the organizations in the two countries through unified activity on the level of political and cultural seminars and through joint training and courses as well as in other areas so as to achieve interaction and integration among the organizations.

6. Forming specialized subcommittees which will work to unify laws, particularly those related to the economic, social and cultural aspects in the two countries.

7. Expanding joint activities through visits and cultural, literary and athletic activities with the aim of creating a common social atmosphere.

8. Issuing through the popular and vocational organizations unified information and cultural publications, and exchanging publications, studies and research.

9. Placing all the capabilities of the vocational and popular organizations in the service of achieving the unified comprehensive development objectives of both countries. These objectives are represented in the achievement of a unified organizational instrument at the level of the Arab homeland.

10. Continuing to strengthen the role of national popular and vocational organizations, safeguarding their unity, and developing their effectiveness and popular and vocational role in serving the objectives of the Arab revolutionary movement, and adopting a unified position at the meetings and conferences held by these organizations.

11. Unifying the two countries' popular and vocational organizations' positions on the international level and at all meetings and conferences so as to serve the just Arab struggle.

12. Supporting the struggle of progressive popular and vocational organizations in the world in the service of the cause of liberation and progress.

These results have been achieved in an atmosphere governed by a high sense of pan-Arab responsibility and stemming from the principles of the Joint Charter For National Action. The committees stemming from the meetings worked with a united spirit and within the framework of the essential and defined tasks with the aim of embodying the aspirations of the masses in the two countries as well as in the Arab homeland.

The joint action progrms between the popular and vocational organizations depicts the struggling Arab masses' genuine pan-Arab character, and thus requires an awareness and a sense of responsibility to safeguard, develop and strengthen the contents of joint programs and to continue their implementation so as to insure the achievement of the central goal of complete unity between the two countries.

The vocational and popular organizations in the two struggling countries express through their joint meeting in Damascus their allegiance to and appreciation of the political leadership in the two Arab countries of Syria and Iraq and to the struggling comrades, Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, for their historic achievement of the Joint Charter for National Action. They also praise their insistence on achieving complete unity between the two countries, which is the hope of the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland in the struggle to achieve the Arab nation's objectives of unity, liberty and socialism.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES YASIR 'ARAFAT

JN232057Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1815 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department; and Fatah Central Committee members Salah Khalaf, Khalid al-Hasan, Mahmud 'Abbas and Muhammad Ghunaym.

A discussion took place on the recent developments on the Arab area, particularly those related to the Palestine question. 'Arafat briefed President al-Asad on his recent tour of several Arab countries. They also reviewed the efforts to further consolidate the steadfastness of the Arab nation in the confrontation with the capitulatory schemes of Camp David.

SYRIA FACILITATES PASSAGE OF SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS TO IRAQ

JN251947Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Dec 78 JN

[Text] On instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, Minister of the Interior Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh has issued instructions to the Department of Passports and Immigration to instruct border posts not to charge passage fees to Syrians and Palestinians residing in Syria when they cross over to fraternal Iraq. This is to strengthen the fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples. This comes within the framework of the Joint Charter for National Action to continue the steps of cooperation and coordination in the sincere and serious work to achieve Arab unity between our two countries and peoples.

IDF CONTINUES TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT FROM SINAI

TA251026Y Jerusalem POST in English 25 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The pullback of nonessential military equipment from the Sinai is continuing--despite a report from the Defense Ministry last week that in view of the current impasse on the diplomatic front the pullback had been halted.

The Jerusalem POST has learned from reliable sources that building equipment, spare parts, excess ammunition, steel tracks, and other military equipment defined either as nonessential or surplus is still being removed.

"Even if a peace agreement with Egypt was not in the air, much of the equipment we are removing now should have been brought out," the source said.

"If Israel intends to abide by the stipulation that it remove its Sinai forces within 9 months of the signing of the peace agreement, and if millions of dollars worth of equipment are not to be left lying around, the process has to continue," the source continued.

It was also reported to the Jerusalem POST that planning for an intermediate line between Ra's Muhammad and Al-'Arish, and a final line along the pre-1967 southern front, is continuing in high gear.

"This is entirely necessary if a redeployment is to be achieved and Israeli security ensured," the source said.

Hundreds of tons of equipment have already been removed from the Sinai in anticipation of an eventual agreement with Egypt.

MINISTERS UNEASY THAT DAYAN WENT ALONE TO BRUSSELS

TA241456 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] Yesterday it was emphasized in Jerusalem that Prime Minister Menahem Begin gave Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan a mandate to discuss only procedural matters with the prime minister of Egypt, Mustafa Khalil, and not matters of substance. It was also said that Dayan had not gone with procedural proposals for the resumption of the negotiations but would want to hear such proposals.

Our correspondent, however, points out that Dayan has ideas of his own regarding the level and the issues to be discussed in the negotiations, if they are resumed.

In a briefing Dayan gave a week ago to directors of departments in his ministry, he was asked how the negotiations between Israel and Egypt could be resumed and his reply was that the negotiations could be resumed on the level of legal advisers.

At the end of the week criticism was leveled by several ministers at the fact that Dayan would hold the meetings with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Mustafa Khalil almost on his own. It was stated that it could be that this is no coincidence and that Dayan's aim is to make sure that "it will be clear to anybody what was said at those talks."

Our correspondnent notes that the foreign minister is generally accompanied on his official trips by aides from his office. [paragraph continues]

This time Dayan dispensed with such help and even rejected being joined by staff from economic ministries, with the claim that he is going on a very short trip during which he will discuss matters of principle and not specific issues. Dayan is accompanied only by his wife Rachel. Yesterday he was joined by his ministry's leagl adviser, Dr Me'ir Rosenne, who had spent a week in Paris.

Dayan's declaration in Brussels that Israel had agreed at Camp David to the return of 150,000 refugees to the West Bank in return for the establishment of 20 settlements there was received with amazement yesterday by several ministers. According to them, to this day they had not seen in any minutes or heard in any report information about any such Israeli agreement. It is possible that a question about this will be raised at today's cabinet session.

DAYAN RETURNS TO ISRAEL, COMMENTS ON BRUSSELS TALKS

TA242111Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said that the gap between Israel and Egypt is bridgeable if the governments of both countries decide they are ready to go half way to meet each other. He said he will recommend to the Israeli Government that it follow this course. The foreign minister spoke with correspondents when he returned from Brussels about an hour ago.

Dayan said that in the tripartite meeting the parties dealt with clarifications concerning the points under dispute and the definition of the gap, but that no procedures for the continuation of the negotiations have been decided. The governments will now have to establish the framework for the negotiations and decide, before this, whether they are prepared to meet each other half way. If they decide to do so, Mr Dayan said, the help of the United States will be needed. In his opinion, it will be good if the U.S. administration takes part in the negotiations in the future as well.

Comments on Refugees

TA250642Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2145 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 24 Dec--In his remarks, [at Ben-Burion Airport on his return from Brussels] Foreign Minister Dayan denied having said in Burssels that Israel is prepared to return 150,000 Arab refugees to Judaea and Samaria. On the other hand, he said Israel has in the past shown readiness to discuss returning some of the people who were displaced in 1967. The number of those displaced is 150,000, but since then approximately 50,000 people have returned to Judaea and Samaria as part of the family reunion project. Dayan emphasized that this was not agreed upon at Camp David, but that this willingness exists even today. He pointed out that any addition of refugees to Judaea and Samaria needs Israel's agreement, we are not prepared to freeze the number of Jews who currently reside in Gaza, Judaea and Samaria, and that is why we will establish 20 additional settlements.

Asked whether he had felt that U.S. pressure was exerted on Israel during the Brussels talks, Dayan replied that Vance's approach was constructive. As for the significance of the talks, he said: "We agreed that we and the Egyptian delegation would not try during this meeting to solve the disputed questions, but would discuss the framework and the procedure of how to go about solving things. We did not touch upon matters of substance, what the formulation would be or what the context for solving the problems would be."

Answering another question, the foreign minister said he could not say whether a plan to hold a summit meeting will come out of the Brussels talks. He said that if the Egyptian Cabinet wants to reach an agreement, it will also have to determine the level of the talks and "I have no reason to say that it will necessarily be at the level of heads of state."

Would you think, after having dined with the Egyptian prime minister in the absence of the U.S. secretary of state, that it would be better if the two parties conducted direct negotiations, Dayan was asked. He replied that there is a possibility of direct negotiations, but as things stand now, it is more efficient to have them with the participation of the United States.

More on Talks

TA250658Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Dec 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] If the Israeli and Egyptian cabinets decide that they are prepared to move toward each other, it will be possible to reach an agreement, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said last night upon his return from Brussels.

Will you recommend taking that path in order to bridge the gap, Dayan was asked. He replied: Yes.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital was at the airport last night. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, what possibilities have been opened for the continuation of the negotiations resulting from your talks in Brussels?

[Answer] In my estimation, after having heard the Egyptian stance in detail--not only the official stance but also the background and everything that the Egyptian prime minister could provide as an explanation for that stance, and which he did in detail and in an explanation which, in my opinion, was an in-depth and frank explanation--I think that the gap is bridgeable if indeed the parties are prepared to move toward each other. The cabinets must provide an answer for this, and if the cabinets decide that they are prepared for this--and I assume that on the basis of reports, those which I will give here and those which Mustafa Khalil will give in Egypt, the cabinets would also be able to know what in fact they are asked to do, where the openings for the agreements are--if indeed the cabinets are prepared for it.

If the answer to this is in the affirmative, then it will be necessary to determine the technical mechanism for it, that is: on what level the talks will take place, in what way and in what direction would it be possible to reach the compromises on the issues on which the parties will agree to compromise, and so on. This determination would have to be done in coordination with the U.S. secretary of state. In my opinion he should be approached only if and when the cabinets really want the talks to continue--and not merely to hold talks for the sake of talks, but to hold talks in order to reach an agreement.

[Question] Mr Dayan, before the talks in Brussels began they were described here as procedural talks. Now you have returned and said that it has not yet been determined, rather, that the cabinets will have to decide where, how and on what level the talks would continue. Can one conclude from this that no understanding has been reached regarding procedure and that the goal of the Brussels talks was not achieved?

[Answer] First of all you are right in assurming that one can conclude from this that the procedure was not determined, this is correct. When we left Brussels, more had been agreed upon in the negative than in the affirmative; that the delegations--the Egyptian delegation, and certainly I--would not attempt during this short meeting of one evening and one morning, and neither was it within their authority, to solve the disputed problems, but would try to determine the framework and the procedure of how to go about handling the issues.

What has been achieved during these talks is a definition agreed upon by the two parties on the disputed questions, as well as a definition of the possibilities and the ways of solving them--not the content of the solution, but the ways and the framework to solve them--in which formulations and in what contexts they could be solved, and so on. The delegations did not reach decisions--because they did not deal with the content of things, they did not regard themselves free to say for certain that the cabinets would want to follow this path of solving the problem--and that is why it was too early to say: Let us determine the procedure, that is, the level of those who will deal with this, the time and the place in which things will be conducted.

First of all, it is necessary to decide whether the cabinets--either one or both of them--are prepared to follow this path, which was drawn up in these clarifications. I repeat: what was drawn up was first of all an agreed-upon definition of the essence of the disputed questions and what is the way toward the framework which, if the parties want to pursue this path, could serve as a way to solve the problem. Whether this is a path which the parties want to pursue remains a question for which the cabinets must provide an answer. [end recording]

CABINET DISCUSSES DAYAN REMARKS ON W. BANK REFUGEES

TA251043Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon asked at yesterday's cabinet meeting whether the story disseminated by the communications media in the name of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is true. According to the publications, Moshe Dayan said in Brussels that the Israeli delegation had agreed at the Camp David summit to absorb 150,000 Arab refugees in the West Bank.

Mr Sharon said that to date no such information has been transmitted to the cabinet and he wanted to know whether there is a grain of truth to this. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that Dayan's remarks are accurate and that at Camp David Israel had promised to absorb about 100,000 refugees in the West Bank.

In contrast, the prime minister said that the Israeli delegation at Camp David did not set any number but expressed willingness to restore to Judaea and Samaria "a reasonable number" of Arab refugees. A few ministers got the impression during yesterday's cabinet meeting that information had either been concealed and withheld from the cabinet or that there had been no coordination among the Israeli delegation members on this matter at Camp David.

Labor Party on Remarks

TA251047Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] The Labor Party reactions team has expressed its surprise over Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's "disclosure" regarding Israel's commitment to restore 150,000 refugees to the West Bank.

This commitment undertaken by the ministers at Camp David was not reported to the public and the Knesset plenum before the Camp David agreements were endorsed, the statement of the reactions team says, and the manner in which we learn of it now is strange and irregular both from the national and the public point of view.

The reactions team levels sharp criticism at the fact that such important information has to date been concealed from the public and the Knesset.

The reactions team demands that the prime minister authoritatively announce whether it was indeed agree with Egypt, as the foreign minister claimed, that 20 additional settlements will be established in Judaea and Samaria.

Foreign Ministry Statement

TA251549Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 25 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan did not raise a proposal of any kind during his visit in Brussels regarding the repatriation of 150,000 Arab refugees to Judaea and Samaria, as several Israeli newspapers have reported.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that Mr Dayan, in his talks with heads of the European Community in Brussels, in which he reviewed the moves linked to the peace negotiations with Egypt and the autonomy plan for inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, the foreign minister pointed out that out of some 150,000 inhabitants of the territories (Judaea and Samaria) who had left during June 1967--about 50,000 returned in the framework of reunification of families.

The foreign minister noted that in talks on the establishment of the autonomy it will be possible to discuss a repatriation of more displaced persons from among those who had left in 1967 in accordance with the results of the negotiations, just as the Israeli demand for strengthening existing settlements and establishing further settlements will be discussed.

Answering questions from his hosts, the foreign minister said that Israel intends to establish from four to five settlements annually during the next 5 years; about 20 Jewish settlements in those territories.

SOURCES SAY GAP WITH EGYPT AS WIDE AS EVER

TA241539Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Officials in Cyrus Vance's party said after the meeting in Brussels that Israel and Egypt have agreed to refrain from public polemics between them.

Israeli sources told correspondents in Brussels that Cyrus Vance had proposed during the talks that the negotiations be renewed at the experts level but no agreement was reached even on that point.

The Israeli sources emphasized that the gap is now as wide as it was before the meeting.

JERUSALEM REPORTS ON CABINET DISCUSSION ON TALKS

TA241746Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] While Vance, Khalil and Dayan were meeting in Brussels, the cabinet here dealt with Dayan's report to the prime minister about his meetings there yesterday. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports on the political aspect of today's cabinet meeting. [begin recording]

The negotiations will continue. How? This we will learn after the foreign minister's return. I was told this by one of the ministers after the cabinet meeting. The difficulties and disagreements between Israel and Egypt have not been settled in Brussels; however, the opening for the continuation of the negotiations has not been totally closed. This is the impression given by the cabinet meeting today. The government secretary, Mr Arye Na'or, made a very brief statement on the political issue at the end of the meeting.

[Na'or] The prime minister reported to the cabinet about the foreign minister's talks in Brussels with the Egyptian prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state. After the foreign minister returns home, the prime minister, following a consultation with the foreign minister, will set the date for the cabinet's discussion of the talks now being held by Mr Dayan in Brussels.

[Qital] Are there any real proposals raised in Brussels, on the Egyptian or the U.S. part that require the cabinet's decision?

[Na'or] I would not use any such adjectives at this stage of the discussions. However, it is natural that after such high-level talks, the cabinet must and wants to receive a full report and form an opinion concerning the talks.

[Qital] Before the foreign minister left for Brussels the prime minister said that these talks will deal only with procedure. We later heard from the U.S. side that substance would also be discussed in the final analysis. What did we learn from the foreign minister's initial report? Did they deal with procedures, substance or perhaps both?

[Na'or] The details of the foreign minister's report are surely a matter that is beyond the official statement I can make. I cannot discuss any details.

[Qital] The foreign minister will return to Israel this evening. He will report on his findings to the prime minister as soon as possible and a special cabinet meeting will be held this week. At this meeting, Israel will decide on its position on the continuation of the negotiations.

In addition to the political issue discussed by the cabinet meeting today, Prime Minister Menahem Begin lauded Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir for his information campaign in the United States. Tamir returned from the United States on Friday. Tamir's appearance contributed to explaining Israel's current position. The prime minister said: Very positive echos have also reached us from our embassy in Washington. [end recording]

HA'AREZ: INITIAL JERUSALEM IMPRESSION OF BRUSSELS TALKS

TA251115Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The initial impression received in Jerusalem from the Dayan-Khalil talk indicates an Egyptian drive toward resuming the negotiations with Israel and completing them as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the impression received is also of Cairo's refusal to yield on positions as expressed in the proposals brought by Vance from Cairo to Jerusalem 10 days ago.

The initial reports reaching Jerusalem about the Brussels talks bear witness to an emphatic Egyptian effort to express readiness to resume the negotiations and to explain that the longer their completion is delayed the more difficulties pile up on their side of the court. These reports, however, indicate that Mustafa Khalil, in his talks with Moshe Dayan, did not reveal readiness to change Egypt's positions on the two main bones of contention: a date for determining the autonomy; and the matter of Article VI of the peace treaty. According to one of the reports the impression given is that Egypt is even toughening its positions by talking recently of granting self-determination to the Palestinians--a terminology it coined at the Ismailia meeting a year ago and one that was exchanged for a more moderate formula in the Aswan declaration of President Carter dating back to January 1978 and adopted at the Camp David summit.

The HA'AREZ correspondent notes that this impression about the Brussels talks is merely an initial one and a detailed report is to be expected from the foreign minister. The cabinet will apparently convene for a special meeting this week in order to hear Dayan's impressions.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting the prime minister reported to the ministers about the "reassuring meassage" he received from Cyrus Vance. He noted that a U.S. effort is being made to dispel Israel's suspiciousness concerning U.S. moves in the negotiations. The prime minister stressed that both in the message sent him by the U.S. secretary of state and in the talk he held with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, it was emphasized that Washington does not intend to adopt unilateral positions against Israel in the course of the negotiations. Mr Begin said that he also received a greetings message from President Carter on Hanukkah.

A few ministers, headed by Hayyim Landau, reacted to this report with skepticism, that is, with respect to the realiability of the U.S. explanations. They stated that Israel should not be tempted to believe Washington's attempts at reassurance, attempts that seek, according to these ministers, to decrease the government's vigilance and soothe U.S. Jewry.

RABIN INTERVIEWED ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

TA222047Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 22 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin is convinced that the peace agreement with Egypt will be signed--and not in the distant future. However, MK Rabin thinks that Israel has almost no chance of directly influencing the position of the U.S. administration and so we have no alternative but to be helped by the Congress and public opinion. Mr Rabin says this in an exclusive interview on This Week. He points out that the U.S. commitment to Israel should no longer be regarded as being in our pocket because the erosion in the U.S. attitude toward us has been continuing for a long time. Our correspondent Nahman Shay spoke with Yizhaq Rabin about the peace negotiations and Jerusalem-Washington relations. [begin videotape]

[Rabin] At this stage the negotiations are complicated. Practically, they are with Egypt, but the United States has taken a unilateral position which puts the whole responsibility for the failure of the Vance mission on Israel. Therefore, in my view, the government did well, and on this matter there was, in my view, also national unity first of all to reject the U.S. claim--the claim of the U.S. administration--and to bring about what is now happening in the United States: dissatisfaction of public opinion at the unilateral placing of responsibility on Israel.

A second thing is: to insist on a suitable order of preferences on the vital and less vital issues in the negotiations and, particularly, to bring about a continuation of the negotiations. It seems to me that both things have already been achieved.

[Question] Mr Rabin, when you headed the government in March 1975, there was a crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations. Do you think that the situation today resembles that prevailing then?

[Answer] It is not exactly the same. I think that the gap between the positions of Egypt and Israel on the issue of the interim agreement in March were broad and could not be bridged; as opposed to this, the gap over issues remaining to be settled in order to permit the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel are in areas concerning which a solution may be found.

[Question] It seems to me that you are not surprised by the present position of the U.S. administration.

[Answer] Definitely not. I think that we have been witnesses to a negative development in the U.S. position, that is, that of the current administration, since it came to power and up to this day.

[Question] Mr Rabin, do you think that it is at all possible to place any hope in public opinion and the Congress in the United States? Is there any possibility that there will be any improvement in our position there?

[Answer] In my view, regarding issues vital to Israel, experience proves that from 1947, during the debate on the partition program, and up to this day, we have been helped by public opinion, by its political expression in the Congress, to curb the negative, extremist trends of the various administrations. I think that in the present and future, too, this possibility exists.

[Question] Even when, for example, we lost the fight over the aircraft deal, do we still have any hope from public opinion and Congress?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that there is a firm and broad basis in the United States for support for Israel, beyond the Jewish community--about which there is no doubt and its warm attitude toward us is known. If Israeli policy is conducted and presented in a manner that really focuses on the most vital issues in Israel, I believe that it is possible to obtain substantial public support for the Israeli positions.

[Question] You have been saying for a long time now that Israel has in fact given up coordinating positions with the United States, in the framework of the current negotiations. Is there any room at all to believe that such coordination with the United States will occur in the future?

[Answer] It is very hard to come to a coordination of positions in the current process because during the political negotiations, the Camp David agreements, the basis determined in them, the positions presented by the United States--I would say that in 95 percent they are identical with those of Egypt.

[Question] That is, there is no real U.S. mediation?

[Answer] U.S. mediation is based on clear U.S. positions; this does not mean that the United States is using all its strength to force Israel to accept them. The Israeli fight today can no longer be against the positions of the administration, but to amass strength to curb the use of pressures to accept positions that we cannot accept.

[Question] Mr Rabin, the U.S. severance from Taiwan; is it a warning signal for Israel?

[Answer] This is an uncomfortable feeling, for I do not recall any unilateral abrogation of a pact authorized by Congress by the United States for very many years, and there is no doubt that the fact of a precedent of this type does not presage good news, although, from Israel's view, we have no pacts, we have no defense treaty with the United States. I was among those who did not search for and did not believe in signing a peace treaty between the United States and Israel. I believed and still believe that it is precisely the presentation of the Israeli position, one which demands for us the freedom to determine the security needs on the basis of the assumption that we defend ourselves on our own and that we do not demand anything from the United States in return, that that position created an understanding of support for Israel greater than any formal document.

[Question] What is there to guarantee, for example, that the U.S. moral commitment to Israel, on which we can at least rely, that that, top, will not be canceled in the future?

[Answer] The relations with the United States and the basis for the support and the moral commitment that exists are not something tucked into a pocket in a certain way. Without constant fostering, without constant information, without attempts to present a policy that answers Israel's needs--but concentrating on the problems that can be explained in the United States--we will not insure this for any length of time.

[Question] Mr Rabin, the doves' congress next week--the Labor Party's doves' congress--does this mean you are getting off the fence?

[Answer] The congress is not of doves or hawks. I think that all the parties are today divided on one of the main questions in the current stage of the political negotiations: are we, at this stage, focusing on overcoming the obstacles, so as to get to signing the peace treaty with Egypt, or are we today bringing up the question of the autonomy and reopening the peace treaty with Egypt or even complaining about the Camp David agreements?

[Question] But you, sir, were the one who said that the seed of a future Palestinian state is concealed in this autonomy.

[Answer] I said so and I believe it, but I voted in favor of approving the Camp David agreements in the Knesset on the assumption that the next stage is to deal with the singing of the pace treaty between Egypt and Israel and I support all the government's battles to prevent linking the peace treaty with what developed on the matter of the autonomy beyond what was agreed. I think that today, to raise the issue of the autonomy and to create a linkage, strengthened by an act of Israel's--whose battle up to now has been to sever the linkage--would be a grave error and spoil the chances of advancing toward peace.

[Question] I also asked whether you are getting off the fence, are you returning to compete, via this congress and these positions, for the leadership of the Labor Party?

[Answer] I am not at the moment engaged in any competitions. The debate is a central one which must determine what the party's--the Labor Party's--position will be and how it is to appear to the public. To my regret, there is too much lack of clarity regarding the Labor Party's position.

Whoever voted in favor of the Camp David agreements--and I hope that he understood what he was voting for--and wants to remain faithful to something as important as lifting a hand to support the Camp David agreements, must, today, focus the support on a fight to guarantee the signing of a peace treaty, without tying up the peace treaty with Egypt with the contents of the autonomy. That is the essence of the argument.

[Question] To conclude, Mr Rabin, let us return to the negotiations, on the eve of next week's meetings, those of the end of this week, in Brussels. It seems to me that I am not wrong if I say there is a feeling that the current crisis is temporary; it will pass and afterward an agreement will come. Do you share this feeling?

[Answer] I share the belief that a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel will be signed, I do not know when; I do not think it will take a long time. In an article 3 weeks ago I expressed my view that the Vance mission would not succeed; he would not be able to bridge the gaps and it is not inconceivable that a more dramatic occasion would be demanded, one involving more senior figures, to reach a conclusion. I believe that not only procedural matters will be discussed at the Brussels meetings. I do not believe that the U.S. secretary of state will go to Brussels to deal only with procedures and certainly possibilities will also be examined there beyond the problem of procedure--how to bridge the gap in positions--and I am all hope and belief that a solution will indeed be found and that the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel will be signed.

[Shay] Mr Rabin, thank you very much. [end videotape]

ISRAEL TO SPEED UP APPROPRIATION OF W. BANK LAND FOR IDF

TA222015Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The military government will speed up the appropriation of Judaea and Samaria plots required by the IDF for military purposes, such as fortifications, army camps and various strongholds. The intention is to complete the land appropriation even before the autonomy plan goes into effect.

It has been reported by the Defense Ministry that the appropriation plan has no connection with the settlements or to fleshing them out. The aim is to insure that the IDF will be able to redeploy in Judaea and Samaria even after the autonomy plan is implemented. Since a legal question about land appropriation after autonomy is implemented may be raised, it was decided to speed up this activity now. The reference, again, is to expanding military camps and completing their construction, completing defensive lines and constructing additional strongholds, communications centers and roads leading to them. In the first stag stage, the ownership of the land in question is being checked.

It should be pointed out that for some time now there has been a cabinet decision to avoid appropriating private land unless a very important plan cannot be carried out without doing so. The defense minister recently denied approval for establishing an emergency storage facility on private land in Judaea and Samaria which the IDF wished to appropriate.

The land appropriation plan has no connection to the order to halt construction work issued by the military governor and is intended to prevent the establishment of new structures near IDF camps. This order was issued out of fear that the local population might slowly build new structures near the fences of the IDF camps in Judaea and Samaria. That is why the order determines that new structures should not be set up within 500 meters of IDF camps. Buildings which already exist in these areas will remain and there is no intention to evacuate their inhabitants. [paragraph continues]

Similarly, they will retain the right to cultivate the area within those 500 meters if this area had been cultivated previously. In the event a local inhabitant lives inside the 500-meter strip and wants to add to the existing structure, he will have to receive special approval, but the tendency is to turn down such requests. This is the kind of order that was issued with respect to the area in Bayt Sahur, but there was an error in the surveying work and in the end it was decided to shorten the line by 200 meters.

JERUSALEM FEARS TERRORIST ATTACKS ON TARGETS ABROAD

TA221520Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehosu'a Tadmor]

[Text] An assessment is being made in Jerusalem that the Palestinian terrorist organizations are liable to renew sabotage actions against Israeli targets in Europe and other places abroad.

The assessment is based on difficulties and failures that befell the terrorist organizations in their attempts to hit various targets in Israel. Most of the attempts failed and sabotage networks were discovered one after the other; the few "successful" operations in the course of the year are unable to disrupt effectively the life of the country.

Fatah, notwithstanding its "moderate" wings, has come to realize that--despite its proclaimed willingness to reach a settlement with Israel if a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip--is being pushed to the sidelines, with the concurrence of even the United States, and it sees no actual prospect of participating in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on issues pertaining to the future of the autonomy and the establishment of the Palestinian state. For this reason, several of the PLO leaders are demanding the resumption of spectacular acts of sabotage abroad, including the harming of Israeli targets abroad and against air transportation.

HA'AREZ: EGYPT CONTINUES TO TRAIN FATAH TERRORISTS

TA241335Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Egypt is continuing to train Fatah frogmen in naval terrorism at one of the Egyptian naval bases in Alexandria. This training is continuing despite the current freeze between Egypt and the PLO.

It appears that despite Egypt's differences of opinion with the PLO following As-Sadat's peace initiative and the negotiations with Israel, Egypt has not ceased providing Fatah with various military services, in particular training Palestinian frogmen at the Egyptian naval base in Alexandria.

As is known, Israel is especially sensitive to operations from the sea by terrorist organizations. Many of the IDF's retaliatory and preventive actions over the past year were directed against Fatah's naval bases after reports were received of plans to infiltrate Israel from the sea to conduct terrorist activity.

Apart from the training in Alexandria, it is known that the Fatah is sending its members to two other countries to study naval terrorism: to Syria (which trains them in sea-launched terrorism in the Latakia area, and Pakistan, which has also volunteered to train Palestinian frogmen.

JERUSALEM REPORTS UNIFIL CONTACTS WITH TERRORISTS

NC2406311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The UNIFIL force in southern Lebanon is facing problems. An Iranian soldier defected and joined the terrorists, the first time this has happened.

Iran joined France in saying that it will not renew its commitments to send troops to the force and Senegal has not yet decided.

Israel radio's military correspondent says that since the UN force is working closer and closer with the terrorists, checks of UN personnel who want to enter Israel has been stepped up.

JERUSALEM ASSESSES SITUATION ALONG NORTHERN BORDER

TA2217392 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 Dec 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] A salvo of Katyusha rockets fell on Qiryat Shemona on Thursday morning, after about 9 months of calm during which the town's inhabitants did not know the taste of shelters. This terrorist attack, said the PLO spokesman, was in reaction to the bombing of the three terrorist bases along the Lebanese coast, a bombing carried out by Israeli Air Force planes the day before yesterday. The IDF will deploy and continue its war against the terrorists everywhere and whenever it sees fit, said Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who visited Qiryat Shemona after the shelling. Here is the report by our military correspondent, Roni Dani'el, on the military activity on the Lebanese border over the past few days and the change in the military situation following the heating-up of the sector:

The air force planes' attack on three terrorist bases along the coast came against the background of reports that had been received about advanced preparations by Fatah terrorists for a strike against Israel from the sea. Well before the terrorist squad attacked the Egged bus on the coastal road the intention to carry out a strike had also been known, but the senior political level decided at the time that we would not be able to convince the world that the justification for our action was based on intelligence reports. The plans were carried out and the squad attacked the bus on the coastal road. This time the use of air force planes was authorized, and also because of the increase in strikes over the last 2 months. In 14 strikes, 4 Israeli citizens were killed and 67 were injured.

The air force planes attacked the terrorist bases in Qasimiyah, from where the squad that attacked the bus on the coastal road operated. The second base attacked was Dahr al-Burj and the third was Burj ash-Shamali, where two 130-mm and 85-mm artillery pieces were positioned. The surprise timing of the attack apparently achieved good results; the terrorists announced two wounded, but foreign correspondents in Lebanon reported many more. The firing at Qiryat Shemona was almost expected and maybe it will be wondered why the inhabitants along the northern border were not sent to the shelters even before the first Katyusha exploded. PLO representatives announced that the firing at Qiryat Shemona was a reaction to the bombing by the air force planes and that the terrorist organization would also behave in this way in the future: firing at civilian settlements after any attack on one of their bases.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said at Qiryat Shemona: We have information about the infiltration of terrorists from southern Lebanon and the IDF will act against them. The artillery fire directed at the sources of the terrorist fire was aimed at Kawkaba, northeast of the enclave north of Metulla, and at An-Nabatiyah, north of the Litani bend. Many terrorists are concentrated in both these places and the calm in Beirut is being used by them to transfer artillery and armored vehicles, to dig in and to establish a hold on the area.

In southern Lebanon there are about 700 terrorists in the area under the control of the UN forces, and their number is constantly increasing. Next month the Security Council will discuss the renewal of the mandate of the UN emergency force in Lebanon and this is thus perhaps the time to make a short, interim balance. The UN forces are deployed in a series of positions and camps: They are not succeeding in preventing the infiltration of terrorists into southern Lebanon and the Shi'ite villages. They are only, perhaps, lessening this infiltration. During firing incidents they take cover and their value as a moderating and influencing factor is decreasing constantly. Even when the northern border is not at the top of the news, fighting continues there daily and, in particular, every night. The terrorists are trying to eat away the Christians' territories and Major Haddad is using his personnel on active night patrols and is firing with tanks and artillery at the squads attempting to infiltrate. This activity has been continuing constantly for several months.

PLO day is 1 January; it is expected that the terrorists will probably attempt, on that day or close to it, to carry out a series of strikes. They are still restricted along the northern border. The possibility is not being discounted that there may be attempts at striking at Israeli institutions abroad. Either way, along the border, in the West Bank and overseas there is now a situation defined as increased alertness.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES SYRIAN TROOPS IN FATAHLAND

TA222109Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The IDF spokesman has stated that Israel has no information about the entry of Syrian forces into the Al-Urqub area, Fatahland. The spokesman said this to our military correspondent Roni Dani'el after the Christian Phalangist radio had announced that Syrian forces had advanced toward the Israeli border, in the area north of Metulla. Our correspondent says that this area is calm.

AFP REPORTS ON SECOND SHAH-SADIQI MEETING

TA260724Y Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 26 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26 (AFP)--Former Deputy Premier Gholam Hoseyn Sadiqi, 73, asked by the shah a week ago to form a new Iranian Government, has told the shah he needs more time to consider the offer, sources close to Mr Sadiqi said here today.

Mr Sadiqi, a former deputy premier to the late nationalist Premier Mohammad Mossadeq, told the shah at a second meeting last night he wanted to finalize more reform projects, the sources said.

Mr Sadiqi was accompanied last night by Abdollah Entezam, chairman of the National Iranian Oil Company, the sources added. According to the sources, the shah indicated to Mr Sadiqi last week that he accepted strict application of the constitution, which obviously implied a reduction in his present prerogatives.

Last night's meeting followed a weekend of new demonstrations against the shah's regime.

CABINET HOLDS MEETING ON 24 DECEMBER

LD241850Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting at 1530 today at the Prime Ministry. At this meeting, various government issues were discussed and several draft resolutions were considered. The meeting ended at about 1930.

SENATE DECIDES TO SET UP COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS

LD251128Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Senate held a closed consultative meeting today. During this meeting, in which all senators as well as the minister of state for parliamentary affairs took part, various issues facing the country in the political, economic, social, judicial and security fields were discussed.

Dr Mohammad Sajjadi, president of the Senate, speaking to our correspondent, said that as agreed upon by the senators, a committee comprising members of the senate commissions will be set up to deal with current problems in the country, including demonstrations, strikes, and the high cost of provisions and of other consumer needs. The committee has been assigned to report to the senators in closed meetings after contacting all the competent authorities. Should it then become necessary, the outcome of reviews will be debated in open meetings of the Senate. Dr Sajjadi pointed out that, if possible, the first meeting of the commission will be held tomorrow.

The Majlis is also to have a closed meeting tomorrow to discuss the country's important problems. The meeting will be held at the invitation of Dr Javad Sa'id, speaker of the Majlis.

SENATOR CALLS FOR END TO MARTIAL LAW 20 DEC

LD232222Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Senate met at 1000 under Mr Mohammad Sajjadi. In his pre-agenda speech, Senator Jalali Na'ini said: Events of the past few days in different parts of the country are a source of regret and sadness for any fairminded and conscientious Iranian.

I am not going to say anything here about the unpleasant events in Mashhad or Najafabad, nor do I intend to go into detail. However, these incidents are the outcome of disregard of the law and lack of responsibility by officials appointed to deal with the people by the government. The senator said: I believe things ought to be duly said, even if some people are displeased to hear them. Many of the recent incidents are the result of general differences felt in small towns.

He said: If those in charge had felt any responsibility to the law and the people, then these unpleasant incidents would not have resulted in the deaths of a group of our countrymen, and Iranian families would not have to mourn.

Referring to discrimination and injustices that prevailed in various organizations during recent years, Mr Na'ini said: So far, during its time in office, the government has not only failed to remove the difficulties but has caused killing and bloodshed up and down the country. I hope that the martial law will be ended as soon as possible and a government with its roots in the people and respect for the law of the land will come to power to serve the country and establish law and order in the country by removing discrimination and uprooting corruption.

AZHARI ASKS MINISTERS TO ADOPT ECONOMY MEASURES

LD252135Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The following circular was issued by Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari today: In circulars previously communicated by the government to ministries and related organizations, the government has stressed the implementation of economy measures in all financial and administrative areas. The government thereby requests each ministry and organization to implement the relevant circulars and within 10 days indicate and categorically declare the situations where economy measures can be adopted and the sums which can be saved in a period of 3 months.

[Signed] Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari.

GENERAL PROTOCOL DIRECTORATE OF PRIME MINISTRY DISSOLVED

LD251804Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In implementing the order pertaining to economy measures in all areas in ministries and government organizations and organizations attached to the government, on the instruction of Prime Minister Gholam Reza Azhari, the General Directorate of Protocol of the Prime Ministry was dissolved today.

MINISTER PUTS NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AT ABOUT 200

LD231826Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Minister of Justice Hoseyn Najafi has said the following about the trial of those who are accused of violating the people's rights and the treasury and who are either being prosecuted or have been detained by the civil servants' Prosecution Department or by the Tehran Public Prosecution:

Right now, 30 investigation committees of the judiciary are working day and night investigating the files and evidence at the various ministries. Therefore, we hope to be able to begin the trial of the violators of public rights at the earliest opportunity.

The minister of justice also referred to the bill submitted to the Majlis to remove the complementary and concurrent effects of conviction regarding political prisoners and said: On the basis of this bill, individuals who have been convicted as political prisoners and have received an amnesty concerning their period of sentences will be able to have a constructive community life like other people and pursue the occupations and professions that interest them.

The minister of justice added: At present, there are just over 200 people being held as political prisoners, and the files of these convicts are also receiving considerations; should they be granted an amnesty, they too can benefit as a result of this bill.

MASHHAD COMMUNIQUE SAYS MEETINGS VIOLATE MARTIAL LAW

LD221340Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Communique No 42 of the military governorate of Mashhad and vicinity]

[Text] I wish to inform the esteemed people of Mashhad and vicinity that the new military governorate of Mashhad and vicinity, for the benefit of the Muslim and patriotic people of this city, announces that since the welfare of the esteemed citizens of Mashhad and vicinity is the special concern of this military governorate, all citizens are expected to observe all martial law regulations and should be aware that all meetings under any pretext are forbidden and are contrary to the martial law regulations. Law enforcement officers have been instructed to deal decisively with those who upset people with behavior which is contrary to regulations. The religious people of Mashhad and vicinity are expected to cooperate to the maximum with the martial law officers.

[Signed] The military governor of Mashhad and vicinity, Maj Gen Mir Shahpur Mirhadi.

MASHHAD COMMUNIQUE ON CEREMONIES, RELIGIOUS RITES

LD222049Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Communique No 43 of the military governorate of Mashhad and vicinity was issued today as follows:

At 1200 on 22 December, a number of people gathered around Shahreza Hospital and the adjacent streets. Since this was contrary to martial law regulations, instructions were issued to take decisive action to disperse them. However, following a meeting between the people and the area officials, they asked to be allowed to take a body from Shahreza Hospital to Behesht-e Reza. The military governor of Mashhad District 1, in view of the sacred traditions of Islam, agreed to their proposal.

In order to prevent any possible incidents, we now inform all Muslim inhabitants who particularly adhere to sacred Islamic precepts to notify the military governorate of any ceremonies and religious rites beforehand, as the military governorate will definitely agree to such requests and will also provide the necessary cooperation.

[Signed] Military governor of Mashhad and vicinity, Maj Gen Mir Shahpur Mirhadi.

Mashhad Clashes 23 Dec

TA232028Y Paris AFP in English 2018 GMT 23 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 23 (AFP)--Ten people died and 100 were injured in clashes outside the home of Shi'ite religious leader Ayatollah Shirazi in Mashhad, east Iran today, reliable sources said.

Soldiers clashed with pilgrims listening to a sermon by the religious leader, the sources said. The casualty list was described as provisional. Soldiers fired into the air to disperse the pilgrims but violence broke out when a section of the crowd staged a protest demonstration, according to the ayatollah's son. [Word indistinct] said his father was to lead a demonstration tomorrow to protest against the bloodshed outside his home.

TWO U.S. OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES KILLED 23 DEC

OW231040Y Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 23 Dec 78 OW

[Excerpt] Tehran, 23 Dec (AFP)--Two American oil company employees were slain in south-western city and 1,000 high school students marched past the American Embassy here in new tension in Iran today. One of the oil victims, Paul Grimm, was said to be one of the experts breaking the Iranian oil strike, but this was unconfirmed.

In Tehran, troops did not intervene against the marchers at the embassy, but authorities closed down Alborz high school, the capital's biggest, because students were boycotting classes and demonstrating there.

Secondary schools in Tehran had been reopened this morning after being shut since martial law was clamped down on November 6. Demonstrations also reportedly were taking place in other secondary schools of the capital.

Mr Grimm, assistant manager of the oil service company of Iran, and another employee were shot dead by one or several unknown persons while going to Mr Grimm's office this morning at Ahvaz, a reliable source disclosed. The circumstances of the killing were not immediately known. Mr Grimm was on a list of 22 people said to have been overcoming the petroleum strikes in southern Iran, the source said. A pipeline east of Ahvaz, in Boyer Ahmadi Province, was damaged yesterday by an explosion, it was learned. The cause of the blast was not disclosed.

Mashhad Incident 24 Dec

NC241015Y Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 24 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24 (AFP)--Anti-shah demonstrators in the eastern city of Mashhad today lynched to death three men said to be army troops in civilian dress, reliable sources reported. The incident came during a general strike called by Muslim religious leaders to protest the deaths there yesterday of an estimated 21 people in clashes with troops.

The lynchings took place outside a Mashhad hospital where a huge funeral cortege began forming shortly after dawn to mourn those who died in yesterday's clashes. At the head of the cortege was Shi'ite religious leader Ayatollah Shirazi, outside whose home the clashes broke out during a sermon he was giving to pilgrims.

Though there was no official report of how many had died in yesterday's clashes, hospital sources today put the number at 21. Scores were said to have been injured.

Meanwhile in Tehran, demonstrators today took to the streets calling for the reopening of higher educational facilities closed by government order. Troops stood by without intervening as the student demonstrators rallied in various parts of the capital. At the same time, the occupation here of the rectorate of the University of Tehran and several offices of the Education Ministry continued.

Attack on Israeli Office

TA241534Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Some 200 youngsters who oppose the shah attacked the El Al offices in Tehran this morning. They smashed windowpanes and painted the walls with strongly worded anti-Israel slogans. Our correspondent Avraham Lalo says that the demonstrators also attempted to break into the offices, but failed. El Al officials in Tehran summoned the army. Soldiers dispersed the demonstrators and evacuated the Israeli employees to safety. The whole incident lasted about 2 hours. Our correspondent points out that the offices of several other foreign airlines are located in the vicinity of the El Al offices in Tehran but that the demonstrators did not attack them.

The attack on the El Al offices in Tehran took place during the course of a large demonstration by dissidents. They also hurled stones at the U.S. Embassy and set fire to many vehicles. The army opened fire on them and correspondents say that at least four demonstrators were killed.

Demonstrations Near U.S. Embassy

TA241547Y Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 24 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24 (AFP)--At least one demonstrator was shot dead today and several others were wounded outside the United States Embassy in central Tehran, an informed source said. Some reports put the death toll at four. The demonstrators were fired on by troops while setting fire to cars outside the embassy.

In other parts of the city troops also intervened as students tried to overturn barricades, the source said, adding that by this evening the city's troops had been reinforced.

25 Dec Tehran Demonstrations

TA250809Y Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 25 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25 (AFP)--Several hundred student demonstrators took to the streets of the Iranian capital again today, following bloody new clashes yesterday which opposition sources said had left eight people dead.

Early reports said the students were trying to approach the U.S. Embassy. Demonstrations had begun yesterday with a call for reopening of higher educational facilities closed by the shah's government.

A day of mourning and demonstrations was also in prospect for tomorrow in the eastern city of Mashhad, where 21 people were reported killed in clashes last Saturday between demonstrators and the army.

Tomorrow's protests there have been called by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the Shi'ite Moslem leader now in exile near Paris who is considered the shah's most formidable opponent.

Tehran Governorate Communique

LD241745Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 78 LD

[Text of communique No 26 of the military governorate of Tehran and vicinity issued 24 December]

[Text] Respectable inhabitants of the capital: As all of you know, the capital's higher schools and technical colleges were reopened on Saturday the 2d of Dey 1357 [23 December 1978]. Unfortunately, today the students--instead of attending classes and pursuing their education--provoked by a group or agitators, took to the streets and disrupted public order by blocking thoroughfares and becoming a nuisance to the people. Furthermore, opportunistic and subversive elements began to set fire to public places and army transport vehicles, to attack organizations and to violate the people's rights, seeking a pretext to incite clashes with military governorate officials. Fortunately, through care and patience, the officials as far as possible tried to disperse the students by warning them and using force without injuring any student. Unfortunately, during this confrontation one officer and several sergeants and soldiers were wounded as a result of the troublemakers hurling hand grenades.

In view of the fact that higher schools and technical colleges are closed as of tomorrow, should a demonstration or riot take place, in principle no student should take part in it.

The military governorate of Tehran and vicinity, on the basis of its legal duty to preserve security and peace, will take decisive action in order to prevent any breach of order and any violation of public rights.

[Signed] The military governor of Tehran and vicinity, Gen Gholam 'Ali Oveysi.

Tehran 'Quieter' 25 Dec

LD251106Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tehran was quieter today than it was yesterday and traffic was lighter. Our correspondent reports that, nevertheless, scattered demonstrations were staged in Shahreza Street and around Tehran university, with security forces surrounding the university and stopping traffic and the entrance of people into the university. Between 1000 and 1200 today scattered demonstrations were held in streets around the university; security forces, firing into the air, dispersed the demonstrators. No one was hurt.

Our correspondent further reports that while in the northern part of Tehran the usual lines formed by people waiting to buy kerosene, in the southern part of Tehran there were long lines of people waiting to buy kerosene.

The Tehran bazaar was closed today and most shops in Shahpur, Hafez and Buzarjomejri and most other shops in the southern part of Tehran were closed. But grocery stores and roving vendors were having a flourishing business as buyers went about doing their shopping.

26 Dec Mashhad Demonstrations

TA260852Y Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 26 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 26 (AFP)--Hundreds of thousands of anti-shah demonstrators rallied in the eastern city of Mashhad today in reply to a call by Moslem opposition leaders. The demonstrations were in protest against the deaths of 21 people in clashes with troops on Saturday in Mashhad, a Moslem holy city and capital of Khorassan Province.

Huge processions were marching from the home of a Mashhad-based spiritual leader to a hospital where casualties of Saturday's violence had been taken. Religious sources put the number of marchers at 600,000 and said they would swell with demonstrators from elsewhere in the province now pouring into Mashhad.

Though the demonstration and accompanying general strike crippled activities throughout the city, there were no reports of intervention by the army.

Meanwhile, the Moslem hierarchy, which is led by exiled Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni from outside Paris, called for a day of mourning on Friday to honor the dead in Saturday's clashes.

In Tehran, troops fired shots today in a bid to disperse students who had taken to the streets for the fourth straight day.

Opposition sources later today reported 12 anti-shah demonstrators killed in clashes with troops yesterday in two towns in Kurdistan.

The sources said eight had died in Sanandaj and four others--two of them in a hospital--in Saghez. One of those killed in the hospital was said to have been a nurse.

On the economic front, oil production sunk to 1.7 million barrels a day yesterday, down from normal output of 5 million barrels, the official PARS NEWS AGENCY reported.

However, a committee organizing oil-industry strike action said output had actually dropped to 1.3 million barrels yesterday, the lowest level ever, following what it called a mass resignation by 2,500 workers in Khuzestan to protest at threatened court martial proceedings against strikers.

In Tehran, heating oil was hard to come by. Long lines formed outside stores with some [words indistinct].

Tehran Radio on Demonstrations

LD261054Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Today in Tehran there were scattered demonstrations along with heavy traffic in certain avenues in the capital.

Meanwhile demonstrators in the town of Shahpur broke the windows of several banks and buildings. In the cities of Mashhad, Saqqez and Sanandaj, demonstrations took place today, and the bazaars of Tabriz and Kerman were closed.

EXPLOSION REPORTED IN GACHSARAN OIL PIPELINE 24 DEC

LD241220Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 24 Dec 78 LD

[Text] An explosion occurred in Gachsaran crude oil pipeline on 20 December. According to an NIOC spokesman, technical experts managed to repair the pipeline and reactivate it. A committee of inquiry has been assigned to identify the cause of the explosion.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNOR DISCUSSES FUEL SHORTAGES

LD251801Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Lt Gen Ja'farian, the governor general of Khuzestan, had a telephone conversation with our correspondent Bahman Shahizadeh this afternoon. Asked whether the people of our country will have to face hardship regarding the consumption of kerosene and gas in the future, he said that despite the fact that the oil industry workers promised that they would not spare any effort in work pertaining to domestic production, unfortunately, it was announced that a slowdown in the oil industry began again today. The governor general of Khuzestan pointed out: If the noble and hard-working oil industry workers listen to the words of self-seeking individuals, from whichever group or class, they will face calamity in the cold of the winter.

The governor general of Khuzestan added: Until a while ago, inhabitants of the northern part (?of the province) and especially of the cold regions like Hamadan, Eastern and Western Azerbaijan, Kermanshahan and Kordestan were asking me to supply them with kerosene, in particular. Today, too, most of the people in Khuzestan, who enjoy a more favorable climate, asked my by telephone to discuss this difficulty with the technicians, staff and workers of the oil industry and to ask them to think of the rest of the their compatriots and make an effort so that the people will not face hardship on account of fuel. I think that the noble workers of the oil industry will think of their dear compatriots and will act in order to increase the internal production and thus remove the anxiety of all of our dear compatriots, whatever the category to which they belong.

OIL WORKERS' SLOWDOWN REDUCES PRODUCTION

LD260914Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Text] It is reported that the renewed slowdown by oil industry workers as of yesterday has resulted in reducing oil production to a level of 1,703,000 barrels per day.

AFP: SANJABI CALLS ON SHAH TO RESIGN

TA251155Y Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 25 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, Dec 25 (AFP)--Karim Sanjabi, leader of the opposition National Front, today defied martial law and again called for the shah of Iran to abdicate. The shah was the one person truly responsible for the present crisis, Mr Sanjabi, lay leader of the center left, told between 3,000 and 4,000 doctors and nurses at a hospital here.

Speaking after yesterday's student demonstrations in which nine people died according to the opposition, Mr Sanjabi attacked "small measures and small solutions" such as cabinet changes.

The people had continued their struggle despite martial law, he said. They no longer believed in the liberalizing policy announced by the government, because it achieved its aim by massacres and did not question the shah's role.

Mr Sanjabi, who met the shah on December 13 at the shah's request, said he had told him he was to blame for the crisis. "This is what I tell you too. He must go," Mr Sanjabi added.

LONDON ARABIC PAPER INTERVIEWS KHOMEYNI

LD221607Y London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Dec 78 pp 43, 44 LD

[Interview granted by Ayatollah Khomeyni to Antoine Francis in Paris--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Is there any relationship or contact between your religious institutions and the Shi'ites in the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Absolutely not. Does the shah's dictatorship in Iran or the Kremlin's dictatorship in the Soviet Union allow the establishment of such contact?

[Question] On the occasion of the Shi'ite mourning period, would you draw a comparison between the "Red Yazid" and the "Blue Yazid" [meaning the Soviet Union and the West, Yazid--the man who ordered the killing of Iman Husayn, founder of the Shi'ite sect--being, in Shi'ite ideology, the antithesis of everything good]?

[Answer] The Iranian people care about achieving independence, freedom and the establishment of an Islamic republic. This will result in the fall of the shah and the abolition of the monarchy. To reach these goals we are confronting everyone who differs with us. There is no difference between "blue" and "red."

[Question] Some observers claim that incidents in Iran might stir up Sunni-Shi'ite differences.

[Answer] We strongly deny such rumors. These are the voices of the shah's trumpets. There is not such a thing in Iran as Sunni-Shi'ite differences. The shah's regime is contrary to the essence of Islam. This regime has trampled upon all the Iranian people's rights. According to my information, even religious minorities are taking part in the demonstrations. There are also demonstrations in areas with a Sunni majority. This is an indication of the unity and harmony between the Sunnis and Shi'ites in Iran. I have addressed an appeal to our Sunni brothers thanking them for their struggle against the shah. The Sunnis are our brothers and they will remain so.

[Question] If an Islamic republic is established in Iran, what would be its relations with royalist regimes in the gulf and what would be its influence on these regimes?

[Answer] The Islamic republic in Iran will deal with all countries that respect the independence and freedom of the Iranian people on the basis of mutual respect provided that contact and dealing with these states does not jeopardize or violate Islamic laws and values, to which the Iranian Islamic republic will strongly adhere. Naturally, the neighboring countries will have preference in our foreign relations.

[Question] How do you view the future of Muslims in Afghanistan under the present Marxist-Leninist regime and what would be your attitude if the Afghan regime joins the Asian security system which is today being proposed in Afghan-Soviet talks in Moscow?

[Answer] The Afghan people are a Muslim people. Therefore, no regime not based on Islamic traditions and laws can enjoy the people's support in Afghanistan. The former Afghan Government did not enjoy the people's support. A government lacking people's support resorts to rule by force, but the rule of force does not last long. Just as we refuse to be the U.S. base in the area, we refuse to be a Soviet defense base. We regard the Soviet Union as an expansionist state just as we regard the United States as a colonialist state.

[Question] A compromise solution now being proposed by Western diplomatic circles to end the Iranian problem calls for the abdication of the shah in favor of the crown prince and setting up a regency council in which you will be represented and which will carry out the desired reforms. Would you accept a solution of this type?

[Answer] Have the Iranian people given Western circles a mandate to decide our future on our behalf through compromise solutions or any other means? The Iranian people strongly reject the shah and the monarchy in Iran and demand an Islamic republic. The Western powers have no right to interfere in our affairs, and they must realize that their support of the shah's regime and the Pahlavi dynasty is not in the interest of the West.

[Question] There is a new political movement led by Ardashir Zahedi, the former Iranian ambassador in Washington, seeking to bring together leading Iranian opposition figures to form a government that would carry out a reform program. How far will such plan succeed?

[Answer] No individual can make a decision against the people's interests, whether such an individual is a well-known agent or one who does not wish to commit treason. The Iranian people's awareness will thwart all these plots. I have often declared that whoever wants to rule in Iran while the shah is still in power should be considered a traitor of Islam, the Muslims and the nation.

[Question] Is it true that King Husayn has offered to mediate between you and the shah?

[Answer] No.

[Question] It has been reported that the French authorities have asked your eminence in a gentle manner to tone down your statements which have been described as "provocative." Is this true?

[Answer] Nothing can stop me from carrying out my duties. When I feel that I can no longer serve Islam and the Muslims from inside France then I will leave this country.

[Question] Why do you refuse the idea of returning to Iran and continuing the struggle from there?

[Answer] I am in France temporarily. When the time comes and when I see that it is in the public interest to return, then I will return.

[Question] The shah was expected to fall before the 'Ashura' [Shi'ite mourning] anniversary. But despite the massive demonstrations he has remained. How do you explain this?

[Answer] According to popular sentiment, the shah's regime is considered to have fallen. He is no longer a king or a ruler. He only holds the spear in his hand and with this spear he kills the people like a tyrant, thus further exacerbating the situation.

[Question] You have addressed an appeal to the army to abandon the shah. Nevertheless, the army continues to support the regime, which continues due to this support. How long do you expect the army to remain loyal?

[Answer] I do not know how long the army will remain as it is, but I know that signs of disintegration have begun to appear in the ranks of young officers.

[Question] Is it likely that you will declare the launching of an armed struggle if the peaceful struggle fails to bring down the shah?

[Answer] If the methods we are applying now in our struggle fail then we will reconsider them.

Khomeyni Appeal to Christians

NC230821Y Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT 23 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Paris, Dec 22 (AFP)--Exiled Iranian Moslem leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today called on Christians to help in his struggle to topple the shah of Iran.

The ayatollah, leader of Iran's dominant Shi'ite sect, made the appeal to the pope and "Christians the world over" in a radio interview at his home in exile outside Paris.

Stressing that Islam had great respect for Jesus Christ as one of the "great prophets", Ayatollah Khomeyni urged support for delivering Iranians from "the yoke of (the shah's) tyrannical regime".

Asked whether he favored an armed struggle against the regime, the ayatollah, who has been guiding anti-shah protests from France, said he had not yet made up his mind.

He said in reply to a question that he was optimistic on prospects for an extention of his authorization to live in France.

KUWAITI PAPER: IRAN TO DISCUSS IMPORTING OIL FROM KUWAIT

LD261012Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] Kuwait, 26 December--The local paper AL-WATAN says today that an Iranian delegation will arrive in Kuwait today to discuss the question of providing Iran with refined oil products. The paper does not attribute the report to any source.

Earlier, an Iranian delegation visited Kuwait amid reports that Kuwait was supplying Iran with refined oil products because of the drop in Iran's oil production caused by the strikes.